presenilin-2 protein is capable of causing increased basal apoptosis in nerve growth factor-differentiated PC12 cells;

(b) determining the level of cell death in the cell culture; and

(c) comparing the level of cell death determined in step (b) with the amount determined in the absence of the compound so as to evaluate the ability of the compound to inhibit neurotoxicity.--

--2. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell is a neuronal cell, a glial cell, a microglial cell, an astrocyte, an endothelial cell, a mononuclear cell, a neuronal tumor cell, or a PC12 cell.--

--3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is a peptide, a peptidomimetic, or a nucleic acid [, a polymer, or a small molecule].--

--5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the mutant presenilin-2 protein is overexpressed.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 were pending. The Examiner withdrew 6-10 and 13-33 from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Applicants have canceled claims 6-10 and 13-33 without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application. Thus, claims 1-5, 11 and 12 are pending and under examination.